

LIVE TOPICS OF THE COMMERCIAL WORLD AND GUN NEWS

CLOAK FIRM SUES ACTOR FOR \$50,000

Slow Bros. & Rifkin Charge They Were Defamed in Vaudeville Sketch.

The cloak and suit trade, which has become more or less hardened to good natured caricature of the industry in plays and vaudeville sketches designed to lighten the burdens of tired business men, has taken the position that there is a limit to its collective endurance and that the dignity of the trade cannot be nibbled at promiscuously.

The issue has been raised in a suit for slander just filed in the Supreme Court here against William Saxton, producer and manager of the act, by Slow Bros. & Rifkin, a cloak and suit firm, of 34 West Twenty-second street, who claim their feelings in particular and their pocket in general have been hurt by \$50,000 worth of certain alleged defamatory utterances by the defendant in a sketch entitled "Cloaks and Suits."

The plaintiffs alleged the name of their firm was used several times during the progress of the act and in such a manner as to indicate to the audience that the firm was the target of the burlesque. How the name came to be used in the sketch is not disclosed. The attorney for the plaintiffs says the author is "now somewhere in France."

Slow Bros. & Rifkin set forth that at the opening of the play a stage expression enters from the wings, drops a heavy package in what is represented to be a cloak shop room and announces that it is for Slow Bros. & Rifkin. A few minutes later a letter arrives and is read by the leading actor in the play, who is William Saxton, taking the part of Jacob Slow, one of the partners in the stage firm. The letter as read by Saxton follows in part:

"We have received return orders. Please do not send us any more, as we cannot afford to lose our customers. Please do not send us any more. The sample is 'B'."

The character described as Meyer Slow asks, "What is R. K.?" Saxton's answer, according to the complaint, is "R. K. means R. K. Rifkin."

The complaint alleges that the reading of the letter and various conversations clearly intended to asperse the business reputation of Slow Bros. & Rifkin.

"U. S. May Order Smaller Trunks." Recommendations made to the conservation division of the War Industries Board relative to cutting down the size of trunks are being taken seriously by the War Industries Board, who say it will be hard for them to carry their models.

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U. S. May Fix Prices of Civilian Clothing

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, June 2.—Probability of the Government fixing the price at which clothing is to be sold to civilians is being talked of here. The impression prevails that such action is likely to be taken since prices for army uniforms and overcoats have been fixed.

In England a standard price has been fixed for standard cloth, and it is believed the desirability of doing similarly here has been made apparent.

models in importers' establishments here.

New Textile Council Demands. Special Despatch to The Sun. NEW HAVEN, June 2.—The offer to the workers of a 15 per cent. wage increase by the local cotton manufacturers probably will be rejected following the recommendations of the textile council. The council has recommended that the employees strike Monday unless a 20 per cent. increase is granted.

Would Boycott Unethical. Special Despatch to The Sun. PHILADELPHIA, June 2.—Dealers who make a practice of returning goods should be boycotted, according to Harry Backs, president of the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers Association.

Record Silk Sales Here. The value of silk sold in New York the past May is greater than that sold in any former May, according to reports received here.

Houghton's Appointment Expected. Special Despatch to The Sun. BOSTON, June 2.—E. W. Houghton of the Houghton Wool Company is expected to be appointed government administrator over all wool goods.

Will Arrange Disputes Amicably. Action has been taken by the Hat Frame Manufacturers Association to put a stop to the "trial by jury" of employees.

A. L. Scott Resigns. Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, June 2.—Albert L. Scott, chief of the supply and procurement division, Quartermaster Department, has resigned, and Malcolm Donald of Boston, who has been assisting Mr. Scott, has been appointed acting chief and has taken charge.

United States Seeks Palamas. The Government wants \$7,600 palamas suits and the bureau of supplies and accounts of the Navy Department has asked for bids to be opened June 3.

Plan to Prevent Fraudulent Failures. A plan to prevent fraudulent failures will be brought at the annual meeting of the Wholesale Men's Furnishings Association Thursday at the Aldine Club by Secretary Willard B. Stevens.

YESTERDAY'S FIRES.

AM. 12:15—30 Paul St., unknown. None. 12:15—40 Broadway, unknown. None. 12:15—40 Broadway, unknown. None. 12:15—40 Broadway, unknown. None.

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WATER FOR LOCAL ANGELS FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 9.

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Wins 110 and 300 Yard Races in Jersey Harriers Meet—Evans Takes "600."

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W. L. Evans, who formerly represented the Pomona College of California, defeated a fast field of seventeen runners. He won the 110 and 300 yard sprints in the one and one-half mile run Fred Travenela, the Mohawk harrier, carried off the honors.

The time made by Wefers, Jr., and Evans better the track records, while Travenela equalled the record for the mile and one-half. The summaries: 110 Yard Dash—Won by Bernice Wefers, Jr., Salem-Crescent, 1:10. 300 Yard Dash—Won by Fred Travenela, Mohawk, 4:10. 1 Mile Run—Won by Fred Travenela, Mohawk, 4:10. 1 Mile Run—Won by Fred Travenela, Mohawk, 4:10.

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